

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A computer implemented method for tracking charitable donations, said method comprising the steps of:
- storing in memory data indicative of one or more donations and a tax-deductible valuation associated with each said donation for a current tax year and at least one previous tax year;
- prompting a user to select one or more of said donations that has been charitably donated in one of said tax years and to indicate the tax year in which the selected donation was donated;
- retrieving the tax-deductible valuation associated with said selected donation for the indicated tax year from memory; and
- storing said selected donation, indicated tax year and retrieved tax-deductible valuation in said memory in association with each other.
2. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein said donations include non-cash item donations, monetary donations, financial securities donations, mileage donations, and out-of-pocket expense donations.
3. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said donations comprises a non-cash item donation and said method further comprises the steps of:
- receiving sales data periodically from one or more partner servers, wherein said partner servers are programmed to electronically collect sales data of items sold; and

calculating a tax-deductible valuation in accordance with tax authority guidelines for each of said donations based on said sales data.

4. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 3, wherein said sales data is received via a communications network.

5. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

totaling the tax-deductible valuations associated with all donations for the tax year in categories based upon non-cash item, monetary, mileage, financial securities and out-of-pocket donations; and

exporting the category totals electronically into an income tax return for said tax year.

6. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

calculating whether the total amount of non-cash item charitable donations is sufficient to require filling out IRS Non-cash Charitable Contributions form 8283; and

notifying the user if IRS Non-cash Charitable Contributions form 8283 is required.

7. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising the step of updating said memory with a current set of data indicative of said one or more donations and a current tax-deductible valuation associated with said donations.

8. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising the step of presenting the user with informative data based upon said donations selected by the user.

9. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 8, wherein said informative data includes marketing information and tax tips.

10. (currently amended) A system for determining a tax-deductible valuation of charitable donations, ~~determining a tax-deductible value of charitable donations for income tax deduction purposes for one or more tax years~~, said system comprising:

one or more partner servers having at least one data source where used items are sold, wherein said partner servers are adapted ~~programmed~~ to electronically capture sales data of items sold at said data source;

a sales history database for storing the sales data of used items; and

a system server adapted to: ~~including a memory for storing said sales data, wherein said system server is programmed to:~~

~~periodically receive said sales data from said partner server; and store said sales data in said memory.~~

periodically receive the captured sales data from the partner servers,

determine a tax-deductible valuation of the used items based on the aggregate sales data of the used items,

receive a user selection of a used item that has been charitably donated and a year in which the donation was made,

retrieve a tax-deductible valuation associated with the selected donated item for the indicated tax year, and

provide the tax-deductible valuation to the user.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein said sales data for each item includes an item description, date of sale and amount of sale.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein said data sources are Internet auction web sites.

13. The system of claim 10, wherein said data sources are retail shops that sell used goods.

14. The system of claim 10, wherein said sales data is electronically captured during sales transactions.

15. (currently amended) The system of claim 10, wherein said system server is accessible by users via a communications network and further programmed to provide a search engine that allows a user to search said database ~~memory~~ to locate said sales data corresponding to an item that has been charitably donated.

16. The system of claim 10, wherein said system server is further programmed to calculate a tax-deductible valuation for said items sold.

17. (currently amended) The system of claim 16, wherein said system server is further programmed to prompt a user to select one or more of said items sold that the user has charitably donated;

retrieve said tax-deductible valuation for said selected item; and store said tax-deductible valuation and said selected item ~~in said memory~~ in association with each other.

18. The system of claim 10, wherein said system server is further programmed to create an export file containing information pertaining to charitable donations for importing into an electronic tax preparation application.

19. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for tracking charitable donations, said method comprising the steps of:

storing in a memory data indicative of one or more non-cash items and a tax-deductible valuation associated with each said item;

prompting a user to select any items that have been charitably donated;

prompting a user to input any other non-cash item donations that have been charitably donated in addition to the selected items;

retrieving the tax-deductible valuation associated with each said selected item and non-cash item donation from said memory;

calculating the total tax-deductible valuation associated with all selected items and other non-cash item donations;

determining whether said tax-deductible valuation is sufficient to require filling out IRS Non-cash Charitable Contributions form 8283; and

informing the user if IRS Non-cash Charitable Contributions form 8283 is required.

20. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 19, further including the step of importing non-cash item charitable donation information into IRS Non-cash Charitable Contributions form 8283 if required.

21. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 19, further including the steps of:

receiving periodically an aggregation of sales data from one or more partner servers, wherein said partner servers having at least one data source where items are sold;

calculating a current tax-deductible valuation for said plurality of items; and

updating said memory with said current tax-deductible valuation for said plurality of items.

22. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein said sales data includes an item description, date of sale and sale amount for each item.

23. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 19, further including the steps of:

creating an export file comprising tax information pertaining to non-cash item charitable donations, wherein said export file is formatted in accordance with the requirements of a tax preparation application; and

exporting said file to said tax preparation application.

24. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 19, further including the steps of updating said memory with data indicative of said one or more items and a current tax-deductible valuation associated with each said item;

replacing said tax-deductible valuation associated with each said selected item with said current tax-deductible valuation; and

storing said current tax-deductible valuation and said selected item in said memory in association with each other.

25. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for tracking charitable donations, said method comprising the steps of:

storing in a memory a first set of data indicative of one or more donations and a tax-deductible value associated with each said donation for a previous tax year;

prompting a user to select one or more donations that have been charitably donated in a current tax year;

storing said selected donation and said current tax year in said memory in association with each other; and

updating said memory with a second set of data indicative of one or more donations and a tax-deductible value associated with each said donation for said current tax year, wherein said updating comprises:

retrieving from memory said selected donation donated in said current year;

applying a current year tax-deductible value to said selected donation; and  
storing said current year tax-deductible value, said selected donation, and said current year in said memory in association with each other.

26. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

prompting the user to enter information sufficient to determine an applicable tax rate;  
calculating the total of said current year tax-deductible values;  
calculating the total amount of tax savings based upon said tax-deductible values and said applicable tax rate of said year; and  
~~display~~ displaying said total amount of tax savings.

27. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 25, further comprising the step of updating said memory with changes to taxing authority guidelines.

28. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

providing informative data to the user depending upon input of the user.

29. (currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 28, wherein the informative data includes marketing information.

30-39 (cancelled).

40. (new) A computer-implemented method for determining a tax-deductible valuation of charitable donations of used items, the method comprising:

receiving, from an on-line marketplace selling used items, sales data of the used items, the sales data including a sales price of an item and an item description;

determining a tax-deductible valuation of the used items based on aggregate sales data of the used items;  
receiving a user selection of a used item that has been charitably donated and a year in which the donation was made;  
retrieving a tax-deductible valuation associated with the selected donated item for the indicated tax year; and  
providing the tax-deductible valuation to the user.

41. (new) A system for determining a tax-deductible valuation of charitable donations of used items, the system comprising:

a partner server adapted to receive, from an on-line marketplace selling used items, sales data of the used items, the sales data including a sales price of an item and an item description; and

a central server adapted to:

determine a tax-deductible valuation of the used items based on aggregate sales data of the used items,  
receive a user selection of a used item that has been charitably donated and a year in which the donation was made,  
retrieve a tax-deductible valuation associated with the selected donated item for the indicated tax year, and  
provide the tax-deductible valuation to the user.